

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NEW SOVIET ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS WITH POLAND AND HUNGARY

1. SUMMARY - SOVIET PRESS HAS ANNOUNCED SIGNATURE OF AN AGREEMENT WITH POLAND FOR INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TWO TRADE AND PAYMENTS AGREEMENTS WITH HUNGARY. THE AGREEMENTS ARE TREATED AS FURTHER ELEMENTS IN CEMA INTEGRATION.
END SUMMARY

2. OVER PAST SEVERAL DAYS SOVIET PRESS HAS REPORTED CONCLUSION OF NEW ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS WITH POLAND AND HUNGARY.

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(A) PRAVDA DECEMBER 17 REPORTED OF SIGNATURE IN WARSAW

OF WHAT APPEARS TO BE SOVIET TECHNICAL AND INDUSTRIAL AID AGREEMENT FOR POLAND FOR PERIOD 1976-80. SOVIET DELIVERIES TO POLAND WILL INCLUDE COMPLETE PLANTS, EQUIPMENT, TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION AND ALSO THE ASSISTANCE OF SOVIET SPECIALISTS. THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BY THE HEAD OF THE SOVIET STATES COMMITTEE FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS, S.A. SKACHKOV, AND BY POLISH MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE JERZY OLSZOWSKI.

(B) A SOVIET-HUNGARIAN TRADE AND PAYMENTS AGREEMENT FOR THE YEARS 1976 - 80 AND

(C) A PROTOCOL FOR SOVIET-HUNGARIAN TRADE DURING THE YEAR 1976 WERE SIGNED IN MOSCOW ON DECEMBER 16. THE FIVE-YEAR AGREEMENT CALLS FOR TOTAL TRADE TURNOVER OF 17 BILLION RUBLES. BOTH AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED BY SOVIET MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE PATOLICHEV AND HUNGARIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE BIRO.

3. A SPECIAL IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY ON THE HUNGARIAN AGREEMENTS (DECEMBER 17) REPEATS STANDARD -- AND THREADBARE -- SOVIET JARGON. TRADE BETWEEN THE USSR AND HUNGARY IS EXPANDING, MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT IN BILATERAL TRADE IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT, AND GROWING HUNGARIAN REQUIREMENTS FOR OIL, NATURAL GAS, ELECTRIC POWER, IRON ORE, TIMBER, FERROUS AND NON-FERROUS METALS AND OTHER RAW MATERIALS WILL BE AMPLY TAKEN CARE OF BY THE USSR. IN RETURN, HUNGARY WILL COOPERATE IN THE BUILDING OF INFRASTRUCTURE ON SOVIET TERRITORY FOR THE EXTRACTION AND PROCESSING OF FUEL AND RAW MATERIALS. AND IT WILL ALSO EXPORT CONSUMER GOODS TO THE SOVIET UNION.

4. COMMENT - ALTHOUGH THESE AGREEMENTS CAN PROBABLY BE CLASSIFIED AS MORE OR LESS ROUTINE, WE ARE IMPRESSED BY THE EMPHASIS WHICH THE SOVIET PRESS GIVES THEM IN THE CONTEXT OF CEMA INTEGRATION. ARTICLES ARE HEADLINED "COOPERATION IS EXPANDING" AND THE IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY, PEGGED ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A REGULAR BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT, PUSHES A LINE WHICH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOVIET PRESS HAS FOLLOWED SEVERAL TIMES PREVIOUSLY IN THE PAST YEAR, NAMELY THAT HUNGARIANS SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR THE BENEVOLENT ECONOMIC SUPPORT WHICH THEY ARE RECEIVING FROM MOSCOW.
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